

## Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – October 2009

### ***From the Chair***

At its meeting on October 27, 2009, the State Board of Education addressed the following topics:

#### ***Roots of Success: Effective Practices in Vermont Schools***

The Vermont Department of Education, with the help of an advisory panel representing K-12 schools and higher education, studied what it takes for schools—and therefore students, particularly low-income students—to succeed. A combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods was employed to identify the characteristics common to effective schools. Through a large-scale survey of more than 2,000 Vermont teachers in 87 schools across the state, as well as intensive site visits to three K-6 schools that are “beating the odds” (schools whose reading and mathematics scores on state assessments defy expectations and exceed those of other schools with similar demographics), researchers discovered a set of attitudes and beliefs as well as specific school practices that are associated with student, particularly low-income, success. These characteristics form the foundation for school effectiveness and are essential to ensuring that all children, regardless of background or socioeconomic status, reach their full potential. The report has sent to all Vermont school principals and will be available online, along with companion documents such as reflection tools and research methodology, at <http://rootsofsuccess.wordpress.com/>. For more information, contact Susan Hayes ([Susan.Hayes@state.vt.us](mailto:Susan.Hayes@state.vt.us)).

***Policy Commission*** – The Education Transformation Policy Commission, charged by the State Board to recommend policy actions that advance education transformation, gave an introductory presentation of their work. They summarized key aspects of education transformation that the recommended policy actions would support – e.g. redefined learning expectations in response to 21<sup>st</sup> century demands, newly defined education outcomes desired from public education, more diverse and personalized learning opportunities, commitment to equity of outcomes and supporting all learners to graduate college ready,

performance based assessments, extended learning opportunities beyond school walls and calendar, strengthened educational leadership and educator quality, re-organized governance and delivery structures. Board members expressed support State Board meeting, their ideas were positively supported by the Board members as exciting directions to advance transformation and improve student achievement. For more information, contact Kay Charron ([Kay.Charron@state.vt.us](mailto:Kay.Charron@state.vt.us)).

### ***From the Board***

- Ruth Stokes noted that a donation to the Respite House had been made in Tom James’ honor.
- Chair Miller reported that UVM has applied for the Teacher Quality grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- Kathy Larsen, Don Collins and Brian Vachon reported on their attendance at the VSA/VSBA annual conference.
- Kathy Larsen reported on her participation in a recent meeting of New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC).
- Fayneese Miller and Brian Vachon reported on their participation at *The Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCEC): Living in the New Normal (LINN): Supporting Children Through Trauma and Loss*, a program designed to support children and families of deployed individuals. Numerous Vermont school children and their families will be affected by the upcoming deployment.
- Chair Miller formally acknowledged the appointment of Rae Ann Knopf as the Deputy Commissioner for Transformation and Innovation.

### ***Strategic Planning***

The Board and the Department continue the Strategic Plan development work begun at its June 22-23 planning meeting. 16 V.S.A. §180 requires a strategic plan and that it be reviewed and updated every 5 years (this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year). The next step is to re-form, through an internal and external input process, the strategic plan (the mission, vision, goals, objectives, indicators of progress) by renewing it to 1) reflect current

practice and views, 2) assure that all students graduate from high school globally competitive, and 3) integrate the tenets of the Transformation initiative. For additional information, see [http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet\\_archives/packet\\_09\\_1027/item\\_M.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet_archives/packet_09_1027/item_M.pdf).

### ***From the Commissioner***

***Vermont's Young Adolescent Promise***, a dropout prevention summit sponsored by the Vermont Association of Middle Level Education (VAMLE), the Vermont Department of Education and the America's Promise Alliance, was held Thursday, October 29, 2009 at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee. The focus of the summit was the promise to "Assure every 10-14 year old will become invested and engaged in education and community and be supported by multi-sectors to acquire the skills for high school graduation and readiness for life." Summit participants included educators, administrators, business officials, educational organization members, students and members of profit, nonprofit organizations directly involved with youth. Following the summit, participants will work regionally to carry out the promise in supporting youth in their community. Highlights included:

- A panel of Community High School of Vermont (school for students in the corrections system) graduates explaining what was missing in their education;
- *Walk the Talk* presenters sharing examples of effective best practices, programs, state and national research and policy that help to inform and guide regional action planning;
- Breakout session by regional teams to create plans for continuing the work in their own communities; and
- Keynote speeches by Commissioner Armando Vilaseca and Betty Edwards from the National Middle School Association.

For more information, contact Linda Bourne, VAMLE Director, at (802) 254-9152 or [director@vamle.org](mailto:director@vamle.org); visit <http://vamle.org> or [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org); or Heather Schneider, Middle Level Consultant, Department of Education ([Heather.Schneider@state.vt.us](mailto:Heather.Schneider@state.vt.us)).

### ***From the Department***

#### **H1N1 Resource for Vermont Schools –**

The Department of Education continues to support the Vermont Department of Health in communicating with schools on H1N1. Due to the frequent and timely nature of H1N1 communications, school administrators are urged to, on a regular basis, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov) for the latest guidance and information, and to work closely with school nurses on planning for this pandemic. For the latest school dismissal guidance, as well as information on school-located vaccination clinics, visit [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_media/H1N1\\_planning.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_media/H1N1_planning.html). Contact: Emily Pastore, VDH School Nurse Liaison, at (802) 863-7281 or [EPastor@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:EPastor@vdh.state.vt.us); Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

#### **The Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCEC): Living in the New Normal (LINN): Supporting Children Through Trauma and Loss –**

In preparation and support for the upcoming deployment of Vermont's National Guard members, the Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCEC) recently held a training, *Living in the New Normal (LINN): Supporting Children Through Trauma and Loss*. The focus of this free professional development program was to prepare school guidance professionals, educators and community members to recognize and address issues facing children dealing with separation from a loved one or experiencing trauma, grief and loss due to the loss or injury of a loved one. The MCEC's LINN™ efforts are predicated on the belief that children's inherent attributes of courage and resiliency can be strengthened through deliberate encouragement. For online registration for this training or for information on the MCEC LINN, go to: [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org). School Counselors who were unable to attend this training will also be able to receive information from the Vermont Airmen, Soldier and Family Readiness Program at the School Counselor Network Meetings in November (see [http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/dept/calendar/vpdn\\_fall\\_09\\_school\\_counselors.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/dept/calendar/vpdn_fall_09_school_counselors.pdf)). For additional information on how to support the children and families affected by the deployment, contact

Andrew Hudacs, (802) 828-3892 or  
([andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us](mailto:andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us)).

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**– Funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provide a unique opportunity to jump start school reform and improvement efforts while also saving and creating jobs and stimulating the economy. These one-time resources should be spent in ways most likely to lead to improved results for students, long-term gains in school and school system capacity, and increased productivity and effectiveness. The following link serves as the main clearinghouse for information for Vermont’s education community:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery\\_act.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html). For additional information, contact Rae Ann Knopf, (802) 828-5101 or [Rae.Knopf@state.vt.us](mailto:Rae.Knopf@state.vt.us).

**For additional information on upcoming Department of Education sponsored events for Fall 2009**, visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>. The calendar is updated regularly.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education**, visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

**To view approved minutes of SBE meetings:**

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>.

**To view State Board of Education’s Monthly Reports:**

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly\\_reports](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports)

**2009-2010 State Board of Education Meeting**

**Dates:** November 17; December 15; January 19; February 16; March 16; April TBD; May 18; June TBD

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

